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BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



A N N U A L R E P O R T

ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

FOR THE YEAR 1960

REPORT PRESENTED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

FOR THE YEAR 1960

BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Report on the Health of the Area for the year 1960

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BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1960

p r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report on the Health of the District during 1960.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar General estimated that the mid-year resident population during 1960 was 9,960 persons, an increase of 350 persons above his 1959 estimate. Deaths exceeded births by 23 people, hence 373 persons migrated into Brixham during the year. This latter figure is 134 greater than during 1959. The final result of the 1961 Census will be awaited with interest.

Births and Deaths

The standardised birth rate dropped slightly to 13.57 per 1,000 population whilst the standardised death rate showed a small increase to 12.90 per 1,000 population. This indicates that the general age structure of the population is increasing. Two infants died a few hours after birth.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Few statutory notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year from medical practitioners, though several cases of illness were reported informally. One such incident was in respect of eight persons affected by Food Poisoning after consuming a cooked meat pie. Unfortunately no food specimens were available for examination, but the history of the outbreak suggests that the particular pie eaten may have been incompletely cooked, thus allowing food poisoning germs to multiply.

GENERAL HEALTH

Mass Radiography Service

A light mobile unit paid a special visit during December, 1960, and examined 61 persons comprising 12 men and 49 women. Only 3 abnormalities were found, none of a serious nature.

Drainage Inspections

The Public Health Inspector draws attention to the amount of drain testing he is doing consequent upon the continued rapid growth in the number of new houses. The increase of inspections is over four times greater than in 1958 and nearly two and three quarters greater than in 1959, and leaves him insufficient time to perform many of his other duties.

Sanitary Nuisances at Bridge Road

During the year a new ferry carrying more cars and able to travel faster was brought into service between Bridge Road Kingswear and Dartmouth. This helped to reduce considerably the summertime queue of cars waiting to cross the river, with consequent diminution of the occurrence of roadside sanitary nuisances and complaints arising therefrom.

Sanitary Nuisance from Carcase on Foreshore

Early in March the carcase of a heifer was washed up on the beach at Mansam and was disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tip. The cost of this work was recovered from the Receiver of Wrecks.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

The Council arranged the burial of one person during December, 1960, in accordance with Section 50 of the above Act.

Open Spaces

Great interest was aroused by a proposal to further extensively quarry limestone at Berry Head. The result of a local inquiry held at Brixham in October, 1959, was announced in 1960, and supported the Council's plea for early cessation of quarrying activities so as to not further encroach upon the existing open space used for recreational pursuits by holidaymakers and residents alike.

Caravan Sites

With the introduction of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, a review was made of existing sites at Brixham. The new Act and Model Standards were discussed by the Local Planning Authority and constituent local authorities, at a Meeting held at Totnes in September, at which uniformity of interpretation and control was agreed.

In conclusion I wish to thank my colleagues on the staff for their assistance in compiling this report.

JOHN WILDMAN
Medical Officer of Health

September, 1961.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John H. WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Lond).

Local Office

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Brixham. Telephone: Brixham 2206 Extn. 5

Central Office - Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton.

Telephone: OFFICE Paignton 82214
Home Brixham 3113

Medical Officer's Clerk: Mrs. S. Beaumont, Public Health Dept.,
Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton. Telephone: 82214 Extn. 59.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

M. DURHAM-WATSON, Inspector of Meat and Foods
Housing Manager
Inspector under the Petroleum & Explosive Acts
Inspector under the Shops and Factory Acts
Inspector for the Riparian Health Area of Brixham.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Brixham. Telephone: Brixham 2206 Extn. 5.

Clerk (part-time) to the Public Health Inspector: Mrs. S. Michelmores

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the session 1960/61 was Councillor W.S.Dart, also on the Committee were Councillors Mrs. E.A.Greig, Miss M.Davies, W.W.Stokes, C.M.Ashford, W.F.Byatt-Smith, F.C.Wakeford.

S E C T I O N A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1960

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1959 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Brixham Urban District

9,960 (9,610)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	...	- 23 (- 11)
Migration in or out	...	...	...	+ 373 (+ 241)
Total Increase or Decrease	...	...	...	+ 350 (+ 230)

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area in Acres 5,626

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (31st March)

3,553 (3,434)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	...	0.6
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	...	1.7
Number of Persons per house	...	...	...	2.8

Rateable Value of District (31st December, 1960) £153,394 (£145,788)

Estimated Penny Rate Product 1960/61 £590 (£575)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1960

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1959 are shown in brackets)

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 13.57 (14.28)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... 1.04 (1.04)

Number of Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	71	59	130
<u>Legitimate</u>	68	55	123
<u>Illegitimate</u>	3	4	7
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	0	0	0

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population 12.90 (12.79)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 0.84 (0.86)

Number of Deaths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Ages - Total</u>	75	78	153
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.</u>	1	1	2
<u>Number under 4 weeks of age</u>	1	1	2
<u>Number under 1 week of age</u>	1	1	2

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 15.4 (7.5)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BIRTH RATE: 17.1 (16.5) DEATH RATE: 11.5 (11.6)

Infantile Mortality Rate 21.7 (22.0)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1960

TABLE 1

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Age Group in Years</u>					
		<u>Under</u>					<u>Over</u>
		1	1-	5-	15-	25-	65
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Measles	8	0	3	5	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
Tuberculosis (Other)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

TABLE 2

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Incidence by Quarters</u>			
		<u>1st.</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>
Scarlet Fever	1	1	0	0	0
Measles	8	0	1	5	2
Erysipelas	1	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	3	0	1	1	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	1	1	0	0	0

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

During the year 58 certificates of Smallpox and Cholera vaccination in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1960

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
	ALL CAUSES	75	78
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	1
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic disease	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasms, stomach	6	2
11	" " lungs, bronchus	3	1
12	" " breast	0	2
13	" " uterus	0	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	3
17	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	12	16
18	Coronary disease, angina	15	11
19	Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
20	Other heart disease	5	11
21	Other circulatory disease	3	2
22	Influenza	0	0
23	Pneumonia	4	2
24	Bronchitis	6	0
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	13
33	Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
34	All other accidents	2	3
35	Suicide	0	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
(a)	Still Births	0	0
(b)	Deaths of infants under one week of age	1	1
(c)	" " " one week to four weeks of age	0	0
(d)	" " " four weeks to one year of age	0	0

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR BRIXHAM

LABORATORY SERVICE

Laboratory facilities for the bacteriological examination of pathological specimens, samples of milk, water, ice cream and shell fish, are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service, at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter. (Telephone: Exeter 54959).

In emergency, certain (medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

The chemical analysis of water and other samples is undertaken by Dr. Cedric V. Reynolds, Public Analyst, 83/84 Queen Street, Exeter. (Telephone: Exeter 72836).

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

The following are some of the County Council Services, provided in accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. Davids Hill, Exeter.

Home and Domestic Help

This Service aims to provide essential domestic help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity, or in any emergency in a household due to illness. The service is not free, but householders, if unable to pay the full charges, are assessed according to their means.

The Home Help Organiser for the District is Mrs. M.R. Powell, Women's Voluntary Service, The Scala Hall, Market Street, Brixham (Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) Telephone Churston 81423.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centre

There are 3 Nurses and 1 Health Visitor. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Clinic, Greenswood Road, Brixham, on Tuesday afternoons. (Telephone: Brixham 3374).

Ambulance Service

This is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer. The Brixham Ambulance Station (Telephone: Brixham 3065) is close to the Fire Station in Bolton Street.

Except in emergency an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officers, Miss O.F. Evans and Mr. W.J. Gliddon, Central Clinic, 14, Midvale Road, Paignton. (Telephone: Paignton 59131).

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Brixham Hospital has 23 beds, 18 of which are general medical and surgical; and 5 maternity; and is managed by the Torquay Hospital Management Committee. The District is also served by the Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER MEDICAL SERVICES

There are seven Doctors in Practice at Brixham.

DENTAL SERVICE

There are two Dentists in Practice at Brixham.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

A Good Companions Club meets on Fridays at the Constitutional Hall. They have a membership of 65, and an average attendance of 45. Organised entertainments and social activities take place.

Friendly Visiting Committee

About 80 housebound elderly people were visited by 35 visitors during 1960. One visitor makes regular monthly visits to Brixham residents temporarily at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes. Enquiries should be made to the Hon. Secretary Miss R. St. George, "Kew", Hillside Road, Brixham. Telephone: Brixham 3285.

There is also a Chiropody Service; and a few invalid chairs are available on loan.

Laywell Old People's Home (opened in February, 1959) caters for 26 residents.

MORTUARY

There is a Public Mortuary adjoining the Ambulance Station in Bolton Street.

S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer, Surveyor and Water Engineer, Mr. P. Thompson, A.M.I.Mun.E., for the following information concerning Water, Drainage, Sewerage and Refuse Disposal.

WATER SUPPLY

PUBLIC Source of Supply

A bulk supply of Moorland Water is obtained from Paignton Urban District Council, and this is augmented from the Laywell Spring situated in Higher Brixham.

There are three service reservoirs, at Hillhead (525,000 gallons), Alston (1,000,000 gallons), and Laywell (326,000 gallons). The Laywell reservoir supplies the low level area of the town and Hillhead and Alston reservoirs the higher parts of the town.

Quantity

During 1960 the supply was satisfactory. The following table summarises the situation in 1960 and 1959:-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Rainfall (inches)	58.24 inches	46.56 inches
<u>Purchase of Water from P.U.D.C.</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
(Hillhead & Alston Reservoirs)	110,842,000	106,409,000
<u>Laywell Spring and Reservoir</u>		
(a) Reservoir supply to low level area of town.	37,658,000	44,232,000
(b) Pumping of surplus water to higher level system.	53,928,000	31,375,000
<u>Total Water Consumption</u>	203,313,000	180,751,000

During 1960 the highest average yield from the Laywell Spring was over 600,000 gallons daily in November and December. The lowest daily yeild was 137,000 gallons during August.

Quality

All the water requires treatment before issue for supply. The water from Paignton Urban District Council has already been filtered and chlorinated before delivery at Brixham, and raw water from the Laywell Spring is chlorinated at the Laywell Reservoir.

Bacteriological water samples were collected from the public mains supply each month, and the results showed that B.coli were absent in 100 ml. in each sample.

No samples for chemical analysis were taken during 1960.

PRIVATE Sources of Supply

There are nearly 70 properties served by private sources of supply, mainly in that part of the Urban District situated between Southdown, Hillhead and Kingswear. Plans have been formulated for supplying part of this area with a main water supply.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected once weekly except in the town centre where because there are no back yards there are two collections weekly.

Trade refuse from the town centre is collected twice weekly, free of charge.

Sharkham Point Refuse Tip

Controlled tipping of refuse takes place into an old quarry situated on the Northern slope of the point above St. Mary's Bay.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Department

There is still no improvement whatsoever in staff or accommodation despite the ever increasing growth of the town.

The Council decided to defer improvement of accommodation pending the result of their application to become part of the proposed Torbay County Borough.

Drainage Inspections

250 houses and flats were completed during the year and considerable time was given to the supervision of the design and construction of drainage systems.

The tests and inspections carried out are classified as follows:-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Total number of drainage inspections	616	235	162
New drainage tested and found satisfactory	227	148	119
Extensions to old drains tested and found satisfactory	49	31	38

Disinfection and Disinfestation

9 rooms involving 2 premises and 3 caravans were treated for the following reasons:-

Notifiable Disease 1

Verminous Conditions 8

The following articles were destroyed by the Council at the request of the owners. None of the items were verminous.

Mattresses 103

Pillows 1

Holiday Population (July - August, 1960)

Owing to pressure of work this survey was not carried out during the year.

Swimming Pool

There is one sea-water swimming pool. It is the Shoalstone Swimming Pool, and is owned by the Council.

Holiday Complaints (General)

Eight complaints were received and satisfactorily dealt with.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

One operator is employed, and works alternate weeks at Brixham and Dartmouth. This arrangement has worked well.

Treatment to private houses is free of charge, but a charge is made for treating business premises.

During the year the Rodent Operator carried out 631 visits in the District. A summary of the work done, based on the Report already submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food, is tabulated below:-

	<u>Council Premises</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business Premises</u>	<u>Agricul- tural</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
No. Properties Inspected.	6	104	37	2	149
No. infested with Rats.	3	58	22	2	85
No. infested with Mice.	0	21	8	0	29
No. Properties treated.	3	79	30	2	114

A total of 48 block control schemes was carried out.

The estimated kill is summarised below:-

		<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>
Harbour Area:	46 Brown	2 Black	Nil
District Area:	279 Brown	Nil Black	85

Sewers

Just over ten per cent of the sewers were treated. No trace of rats was found.

HOUSING

Inspections

166 houses in the District were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts during 1960.

5 Legal Notices were served.

Overcrowding

3 cases of overcrowding were reported and dealt with during the year.

Substandard Housing

2 houses were closed for human habitation. There were 3 demolitions.

Rent Act, 1957

Although a number of enquiries from tenants and landlords have been dealt with, very little official action has been necessary. One Certificate was cancelled, after completion of repair.

Council Housing - Waiting List

By the end of 1960 the waiting list for accommodation had increased in size. Half the total number of applicants are between the ages of 60 and 70 years. The greatest demand is for one bedroom accommodation (sixty per cent) and of the remaining forty per cent on the waiting list approximately one quarter require two bedrooms.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Number of Dairies registered ...	1	2
Number of Dealers licenced ... (including two milk vending machines)	52	41

The Special Designated Milks on sale in the area are Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised. Sterilised milk is not retailed in Brixham.

Ice Cream

A total of 91 premises is registered for the sale or storage of ice cream, as follows:-

Bakers/Confectioners	...	...	15
Cafes	...	...	16
Camp Cafes/Shops	...	...	7
Beach Huts/Kiosks	...	...	7
Multiple Store	...	...	1
Tea Trailer	...	...	1
Grocers/Greengrocers	...	...	38
Dairy	...	...	1
Club	...	...	1
Boarding House	...	...	1
Hotels	...	...	2
Cinema	...	...	1

Two premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Meat and Other Foods

Food surrendered as being unfit for human consumption is listed below:-

<u>Canned Food</u>			<u>Other Food</u>		
Meats	446¾	lb.	Butter	7	lb.
Fruit	83½	lb.	Sugar	1	lb.
Vegetables	34¼	lb.	Sausages	19	lb.
Jam	1½	lb.	Cockles	276	lb.
Fish	5	tins	Biscuits	4	packets
Evap. Milk	11	tins	Dates	2	boxes
			Jam	56	jars

All condemned foodstuffs were disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tip.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

103 inspections were carried out and informal action in respect of defects was taken at one premises. The defects were remedied.

Food Samples sent for analysis

The Devon County Council Sampling Officer, in accordance with the authority given by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, caused the following samples to be analysed:-

Honey	Proprietary Cold Tablets
A.P.C. Tablets	Condensed Milk
Dried Pears	Whisky
Garden Peas	Fruit Ice Lolly
Anti-Smoking Tablets	Butter Pats
A Proprietary Cold Mixture	Vitalising Glucose
Marmalade	Lunch Tongue
Starch Reduced Rolls	Vinegar
Sherry	Lard
Grapefruit Crush	

All these samples were genuine.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTS

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

Number of licences granted to store Petroleum	21
Amount of Petroleum stored	33,490 gallons.

The Esso Petroleum Company Ltd., hold a Licence to store 4,200,000 gallons of Petroleum Spirit, but no petroleum spirit was stored during the year.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 & 1923

Number of licences granted to store Gunpowder, Gelignite, Fuses	1
Number of licences granted for the sale of Ammunition	... 2
Number of licences granted for the sale of Fireworks	... 12

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two pet shops were licenced under the provisions of the Act, and continued to be operated satisfactorily.

GAME ACT, 1831

Four persons were licenced to deal in game.

SHOPS ACT, 1950, (SECTION 38)

One case of inadequate sanitary accommodation was dealt with.

THE HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

One case where a retailer was offering for sale portable heating appliances equipped with fireguards which did not comply with the above regulations was satisfactorily dealt with by informal means.

S E C T I O N D

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

The following is a summary of information required for submission to the Ministry of Labour in respect of the year 1960.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power: (Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6)

Number on Register	...	...	4
Inspections	...	...	12
Written Notices	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	0

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power: (Section 7)

Number on Register	...	...	38
Inspections	...	...	80
Written Notices	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	0

(iii) Other Premises under the Act: (Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworker's Premises).

Number on Register	...	...	15
Inspections	...	...	626
Written Notices	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	0

2. Cases in which defects were found: Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

	Section 110			Section 111	
Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.	2	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	0	0	0

(7) There were no prosecutions.

S E C T I O N E

RIPARIAN HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM, 1960 - (SUMMARISED)

The above Report, based on the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Circular 33/52 and 16/55 and in Form Port 20 was submitted to the Ministry in March, 1961.

The Report stated that a total of 823 ships with a nett tonnage of 243,003 tons entered the area. This total is 511 ships fewer than during the previous year. These figures do not include Liners calling for Pilots, as these Liners do not encroach on the Harbour Limits. 237 vessels came from foreign ports. The principal import was diesel oil, and the principal exports were oil and limestone.

No statutory inspections of ships for nuisances were carried out.

Pure drinking water is supplied to shipping in the port by means of seven standpipes and hydrants on the harbour quays and Victoria Breakwater. Proper precautions are taken to ensure that the hydrants and hosepipes used are kept free from contamination.

Arrangements exist for dealing with illness and accidents occurring aboard ship and for the proper care of such cases on shore. Three casualties from foreign ships received hospital treatment, and four more cases received treatment on board. All treatment is administered by local general medical practitioners.

In December a radio telegram from a Liner was received giving notice of one case of infectious illness aboard ship. The case was not landed at Brixham when the ship called for a Pilot the next day, but remained aboard. The Port of London Health Authority were informed by telephone, because the ship was bound for Tilbury.

